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## Chanticleer | December 3, 2020

Jacksonville State University

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# Holiday shopping on a tight budget

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/holiday-shopping-on-a-tight-budget/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/holiday-shopping-on-a-tight-budget/)

December 3, 2020



**Whitney Ervin**, *Correspondent*

Christmas is sneaking up on us once again. Shopping for gifts is always a bit stressful at best.

This year things are looking a bit trickier due to the ongoing pandemic. With many of us being reliant upon online shopping to find gifts, the task of gift buying can feel daunting.

After all, with online shopping the world is at your fingertips. Anything you can think of could be found on a dozen or more websites of various levels of trustworthiness.

In the interest of making the holidays a bit easier for us all in this trying time, here is a compilation of gift ideas that won't break the bank.

[Cute and colorful miniature waffle iron at Target.com](#)

For just \$10.00 you can give the gift of waffles! This Dash Miniature Waffle iron comes in a variety of colors, allowing a bit of personalization. It's light and convenient to use. Plus its compact size makes it easy to store. This adorable little waffle iron boasts five star reviews on Target.com!

[A plush throw to keep your loved ones cozy from Target.com](#)

These plush throws come in a range of colors and are perfect for lounging around with or they look nice draped along a chair. They're cute, comfy, and will only cost you \$10.00! The fabric is machine washable, so the care is easy. This throw manages to be soft and warm, but is still light weight. These throws were truly made with comfort in mind.

#### Don't wanna fork the money out on Uggs? Old Navy.com has a comfy dupe

Old Navy has on their website some cozy sherpa booties in white and black for just \$26.99! The booties include memory foam insoles making it feel like "walking on a cloud" according to their website! The inside is lined with microfleece and sherpa. The perfect gift for your loved ones who want comfort and are maybe a bit nostalgic for this 2000s fashion statement (which has been making a bit of a comeback.)

#### An app controlled, multi-colored light strip to help add some ambience

Available on Amazon.com, these Govee LED light strips will only run you \$21.99! They make an inspired gift idea, venturing away from the usual safety of candles or pajamas. They're controlled right from a convenient app. In the app you can control the colors of the lights, and even set timers for the lights. You can also set them up to synchronize with music, changing colors to match the rhythm. They're easy to apply with a peel and stick backing. They have a rating of 4.7 out of five stars on Amazon!


#### A shiatsu neck and shoulder massager from Amazon

This is one the priciest item on this list, topping out at \$36.99. However, it's been a rough year for us all. What better gift to give in 2020 than the gift of a stress relieving massage? This multifunction massager has eight rolling balls with three levels of intensity and multiple levels of heating options. According to the high reviews on Amazon, this handy gadget feels just like a real person giving you a massage.

As the holidays approach, things will no doubt look a little bit different for all of us. It's important to remember that even if you're on a tight budget, the season isn't about the gifts we give.

Shopping on a tight budget can prove difficult, and sometimes even impossible. Try to remember as the holidays approach, it's not about the gifts we give. Rather it's all about the love we share.

# JSU's Student Success Center to open Feb. 2021

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsus-student-success-center-to-open-feb-2021/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsus-student-success-center-to-open-feb-2021/)

December 3, 2020



**Logan Irwin**, *Correspondent*

The Jacksonville State University Student Success Center is set to open in the Houston Cole Library in February of 2021.

Tim King, JSU's vice president for student success, said that the goal for the Student Success Center is "to serve students where they are, not where we want them to be."

"The SSC combined Disability Support Services, New Student Orientation, Learning Services and the Academic Center for Excellence," said King. "Those areas do not exist anymore per se, but we are offering similar programs and services."

The main hub for the center will be located on the ground floor, lobby and the second floor of the Houston Cole Library. Other locations can be found in the Stone Center, Ayers Hall and Martin Hall.

The idea for the Student Success Center is driven by the Division of Student Success's mission, which is to provide an integrated network of support that will aid in the academic and personal success of JSU students, [according to a press release by the university.](#)



“Discussions began in the Fall of 2019 with President Killingsworth as part of his initiative to improve student success outcomes,” said King. “The library was chosen as the ideal location for the Student Success Center because it is already a hub of learning support and a gathering place for students.”

King explained that he hopes students will see the center as a space for study, group work, projects, tutoring and creative projects, where students can hang out with one another.

“The SSC at JSU will be unmatched in our state and region,” he said. “It’s going to be something special and it’s all for students.”

# JSU tennis picks Mike Mucci as new head coach

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-tennis-picks-mike-mucci-as-new-head-coach/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-tennis-picks-mike-mucci-as-new-head-coach/)

December 3, 2020



**Ashley Phillips**, *Sports Editor*

Mike Mucci has been named as the new head coach for Jacksonville State's tennis team for the spring season, JSU athletics announced on Tuesday.

"We are excited to welcome Mike Mucci to the Gamecock family and to have someone with his experience and success take over our tennis program," said Greg Seitz, JSU's athletic director. "Mike has had success at every stop in his young career and is the perfect fit to carry on the storied tradition that we have built on the courts, in the classroom and in the community here at JSU."

Mucci, who arrives at JSU with a rich history of five years of coaching tennis, said he was "really excited to be here," and that he was ready to build the university's tennis program.

"I am so excited to get started at JSU," said Mucci. "I have always had a lot of respect for this institution and athletics department, and I'm honored to be the head coach here. I'm motivated to continue the great tradition of success in the OVC that has been established and can't thank Greg Seitz enough for the opportunity."

Prior to securing his new role at JSU, Mucci's most recent position was at Southern Utah University as the head coach of the women's tennis team for their 2019-2020 season.

“I was planning on being there for a pretty long time, at least a few years or more, and the program got discontinued because of COVID,” Mucci said.

After the discontinuation last June and shifting around a bit, Mucci saw the job posting with JSU. He said it took a while to all come about but that he was happy to be here.

Though Mucci’s alma mater was up north at Niagara University in New York, he’s no stranger to the South. In the 2018-2019 season, Mucci was the assistant coach at Belmont University in Nashville and brings experience with the Ohio Valley Conference (OVC).


“Nashville is very different than Jacksonville, but at the same time I think there’s a lot of similarities between the people and how friendly they are, and I really like that aspect of it,” said Mucci.

Asked if he had any plans for the upcoming season, Mucci said his biggest priority was getting to know the players and nailing down the new schedule.

Due to COVID-19 and pandemic precautions, many schools previously on the schedule for matches might have made changes to their upcoming season. Though optimistic, Mucci said he plans to take every match on an individual basis even after the schedule has been finalized.

“You can try to anticipate it but at the end of the day, none of us know what’s going to happen,” Mucci said.

# JSU women's basketball defeats Georgia Southern in home opener

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-womens-basketball-defeats-georgia-southern-in-home-opener/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-womens-basketball-defeats-georgia-southern-in-home-opener/)

December 3, 2020



**Jamerious Borden**, *Correspondent*

The Jacksonville State women's basketball team defeated the Georgia Southern Eagles 70-58 at Pete Mathews Coliseum on Wednesday, Nov. 25.

Although the Gamecocks (1-0) showed a few signs of rust, this did not stop the women's basketball team from pushing themselves to proclaiming a hard-fought victory.

A fresh new lineup kept a miraculous rhythm going, with the Gamecocks running up-and-down the floor for 75 attempts, 43 rebounds, scored 21 points off turnovers, plus assisting on 14 baskets made.

In addition, the lady Gamecocks remain undefeated at 6-0 on their home floor against the Eagles (0-1).

True freshman Keiara Griffin made the starting lineup in her first appearance while rocking the red and white.

Additionally, five other Gamecocks made their debuts in juniors: Imari Martin, Kennedy Gavin, Kaiya Burnett, Kyra Williams and redshirt sophomore Regan Dargan. The fresh faces accounted for 15 points, led by Martin's eight off the bench.

Redshirt-junior transfer Gavin, was the only Gamecock with double-digit rebounds, finishing with 10 to set a new career high for her collegiate career.

Along with the newcomers making a marvelous first impression, JSU's veterans led the way for head coach Rick Pietri and the bunch.

Junior Yamia Johnson's 16 points plus Senior Taylor Hawk's 10 points helped lead the way including sophomore guards Nekiyah Thompson and Winnie Kuimi combined for 17 points total.

Georgia Southern led 4-2 before Johnson and Hawks combined three straight triples to help JSU take an 11-4 lead. This team hung in there, showing perseverance as they tie a program record of 45 attempts beyond the arc. A previous mark was set earlier at Eastern Illinois on Jan. 16.

JSU led 20-8 during the next period. However, the Eagles made a stunning comeback during the second quarter making JSU trail with a 4-point deficit making the score 25-21. Then, Senior Kiana Johnson powered up and helped send the Gamecocks into halftime with the score of 34-24, outscoring the Eagles 9-3.

Following a few free throws, the Eagles shortened the lead back to four with over six minutes to play in the third, but JSU found a way to finish the third quarter on a 15-6 run leading into the fourth quarter.

In the end, JSU ran away with a 30-10 run with a little over 10 minutes remaining, basically running deep in the final period making the lead 66-42 with the Gamecocks leading by 24. Though JSU's offense did not score within the final two minutes of the game, the Eagles pushed and fought until the end making the final score 70-58.

The lady Gamecocks' game against Tennessee Tech on Thursday was postponed. A make-up date has not been announced. The team is set to face off against New Orleans in the Pete Mathews Coliseum on Saturday, Dec. 5 at 2 p.m. The game can be streamed live on ESPN+.

# Ways to destress as students navigate finals week

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/ways-to-destress-as-students-navigate-finals-week/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/ways-to-destress-as-students-navigate-finals-week/)

December 3, 2020



**Breanna Hill**, *Features Editor*

Finals for fall semester are ongoing, and with that comes stress, late nights and tons of caffeine.

The fall semester has been different for all of us. We've had to adapt our learning styles and take online classes that are normally in the classroom with a real professor and actual hands-on activities.

Students all over the nation have been stripped of so much regarding their education, and this semester has not been easy in the slightest bit.

Destressing for not just finals, but for this whole entire semester is an important step to include and it can help protect your mental health. There are numerous ways to destress and incorporating these small activities throughout the day can make a world of difference.

One way you can destress can be taking breaks throughout the studying session you're having.



I like to set up a timer on my phone and study for thirty minutes, or any allotment of time you feel comfortable with, and once the timer goes off I take a break. Even if the break is just fifteen minutes, it gives your brain some time to decompress and breathe. Use this time to grab a cup of coffee or a snack, scroll through TikTok for a few laughs, or even just lay down in bed and rest. Doing this has helped me tremendously.

Another way I like to decompress is exercising in some way. I might go to the gym one day, or I might just go for a walk in the park.

This has helped me more than I can express. I listen to my favorite podcasts and I let myself enjoy some me time and not think about studying for the finals approaching. Cramming for hours and hours can take a toll on not only your mind and mental health, but also your body. Allowing yourself time for other activities during this time does so much for your wellbeing, and it can help reenergize you more than you would think.


One of my most strong beliefs for the entire destressing process needed during this time is making sure you get enough sleep.

Oftentimes when cramming for finals, students will forget that a proper sleeping schedule is crucial. Eight hours of sleep is recommended, and getting that sleep can help rejuvenate your body and mind which is what needs to happen when preparing for finals.

Forgetting your mental health and not treating it properly is a common mistake when finals roll around. We all get tunnel vision around this time of year and forget to take care of ourselves the way we should. Realizing that taking care of ourselves and taking the time to destress can contribute immensely to us performing at our best for finals and other assignments.

Find some activities that work best for you to destress and make sure you incorporate them into your schedule. It really can make a difference, and the results will be positive.

# Students won't be required to retest for COVID-19 upon returning in the spring, JSU provost confirms

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/students-wont-be-required-to-retest-for-covid-19-upon-returning-in-the-spring-jsu-provost-confirms/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/students-wont-be-required-to-retest-for-covid-19-upon-returning-in-the-spring-jsu-provost-confirms/)

December 3, 2020



**Luke Reed**, *Correspondent*

Jacksonville State University Provost Christie Shelton confirmed to the Chanticleer that students will not be required to retest for COVID-19 upon returning in the spring.

Shelton clarified that the policy will apply to all JSU faculty, staff and students.

“Our focus is on symptom checking and the rapid testing at the Student Health Center,” said Shelton.

The university announced in July that students returning to campus for the fall 2020 semester would be required to test for COVID-19 through GuideSafe, a platform developed by the University of Alabama in Birmingham to “promote safe re-entry and ongoing COVID-19 monitoring.”

With a COVID-19 vaccination in the works, Shelton said that she was “very hopeful” that there would be widespread vaccine availability in our area.

Vaccines produced by the companies Moderna and Pfizer have shown to have 94.5% and 95% effectiveness rates, respectively, according to the Washington Post. Dr. Anthony Fauci, the director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, said this week that he expects widespread vaccine availability by April, according to National Public Radio.

“While we are continuing with social distancing and masking in classrooms for the spring, I am optimistic that we may see a more normal fall semester next year, pending progress with the vaccine of course,” said Shelton.

Shelton explained that the university plans to continue socially-distant and online learning instruction during the spring semester.

“The faculty and staff in Academic Affairs worked carefully on the spring schedule to be more clear on whether course offerings are in-person, online, or hybrid,” said Shelton. “We encourage students to choose the option for courses which best suits their needs.”

# LETTER TO THE EDITOR: Change Electoral College to state-based, popular vote point system

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/letter-to-the-editor-change-electoral-college-to-state-based-popular-vote-point-system/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/letter-to-the-editor-change-electoral-college-to-state-based-popular-vote-point-system/)

December 3, 2020



## To the Editor:

The debate has started again as to whether the US Constitution should be amended in order to change the presidential election process. Some promote eliminating the Electoral College in favor of a direct popular vote for president while others believe the Electoral College should remain unchanged.

Just as compromise solved the initial problems of the framers so it is that compromise can solve this problem.

The solution is to change the electoral votes to electoral points and reward each candidate a percentage of points based on the percentage of popular votes received in each state. This would eliminate the “winner take all” system thus allowing for all the votes to count.

A voter is more apt to believe their vote counted when a percentage of popular votes are taken into account rather than the “all or nothing” system currently in existence. Further, this new system would integrate the desire for a popular vote for president with the need for the individual states to determine who actually gets elected.

For 2020 multiplying the percentage of votes each candidate received (in each state) times the number of electoral votes (in each state) results in the following: Biden 267.23 and Trump 252.33.

Multiplying the percentage of popular votes each candidate received nationwide times the total number of electoral votes (538) results in the following: Biden 274.92 and Trump 253.40.

*Joe Bialek*

*Cleveland, Ohio*

**Want to see your letter published? Submit it to us [here](#).**

# Gamecock newcomers lead men's basketball to 3-1 record

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/gamecock-newcomers-lead-mens-basketball-to-3-1-record/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/gamecock-newcomers-lead-mens-basketball-to-3-1-record/)

December 3, 2020



**Coley Birchfield**, *Correspondent*

The Jacksonville State men's basketball team ended the Thanksgiving Break with a 3-1 record, including a 3-game win streak.

JSU returns to campus this week after competing in the Goldie and Herman Ungar Memorial Tournament in Mobile, Ala. Here, the Gamecocks captured wins over Florida Atlantic, South Alabama and the University of Mobile.

The Gamecocks' lone loss came to the hands of the Alabama Crimson Tide on Thanksgiving Eve. The game, which aired on the SEC Network, showcased a team filled with newcomers.

JSU tied a program record set in the 2011-12 season with a total of 11 new players this winter.

Darian Adams and Demaree King have been the most impactful of the group so far. The duo have combined to average 25 points per game. With most of King's points stemming from hitting 60 percent of his 3-point shots.



The Gamecocks combined to score 69 points per game, while also turning the ball over an average of 15 times per game.

Head coach Ray Harper looks to return the Gamecocks to their former success after finishing the 2019-20 season with a 13-19 record. The OVC conference members seemed to believe that possibility by picking JSU to finish third in their preseason rankings. That would be a substantial improvement from the seventh place finish of last season.

COVID-19 protocols have made games evidently different, so far this season. Every team's bench is required to be spaced out along the baseline to improve social distancing. This requirement goes along with frequent COVID-19 testing and mask requirements while not on the court.

Another impact that could be financially dangerous is the limited crowds during competition. During the Gamecocks first four games — including a visit to SEC power, Alabama — the average attendance was only 800. Students and fans should expect these same crowd limitations during games at Pete Mathews Coliseum.

The men's team will get a break from action before travelling to Miami this weekend, where they will play Florida International on Friday and Sunday.

# Netflix original 'Virgin River' drops season 2

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/netflix-original-virgin-river-drops-season-2/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/netflix-original-virgin-river-drops-season-2/)

December 3, 2020



**Breanna Hill**, *Features Editor*

The popular Netflix original “Virgin River” returned for a highly-anticipated season two on Nov. 27, and the show creators certainly delivered with even more plot twists, romance and drama.

Currently, the series is trending on Netflix’s top 10 list and after binging every episode in season two, I can see why.

When I first started the series, I was captivated right away. I watched the first season a few weeks after it made its debut on the popular streaming platform and I was addicted.

Though the town Virgin River and its residents give off major Hallmark Channel vibes, it represents so much more.

I believe the biggest differences between this show and Hallmark shows and movies is that this series has major mystery subplots that contribute so much to the bigger storyline. If the series didn’t have that added element of mystery, it would be separated from the Hallmark Channel productions in my opinion.

Another element of this Netflix series that makes it its own is the ability the show creators have to make the mystery, romance and drama seem anything but cringey, which unfortunately, is a recurring issue with the Hallmark Channel and the entertainment they produce.

Season two starts off with answering the questions which were left unanswered from the first season. The show creators knew they were leaving viewers with an unbelievably shocking cliffhanger in season one, but I really appreciated how they came back strong in the first episode of season two with the answers viewers were dying for; they didn't make them wait. The plot twists aren't predictable which is so refreshing with shows like this one.

This season didn't only bring the answers viewers were aching for, it brought on new characters, even more plot twists, and again, a shocking cliffhanger that literally left my mouth hanging wide open. I devoured the entire season within two days. Like the first season, there are ten episodes and each episode is approximately forty-five minutes long, though it doesn't feel like that long.

There were some aspects to season two that I wasn't a fan of, but only one is worth mentioning.

Charmaine, played by the lovely Lauren Hammersley, turned into a complete mean girl which completely transformed her character for me. I won't give spoilers because I hate when people do that, but I will say that Charmaine in season two is like Charmaine in season one, but on Adderall.

I didn't particularly like her in season one because, like most viewers, I stan Jack and Mel and always will, but painting her as a manipulative, condescending person so harshly in the second season was not something I was expecting.

I can safely say that each episode added something crucial to the overall plot. There were no lulls or massive dips within the storyline that irritated me to the point that I would take a break from the show, which is a triumphant feat in my eyes. I remained engaged through all ten episodes and, as a viewer, that's all I can possibly ask for from a series.

I highly recommend giving this show a chance. I know if I was to explain what the series is about most people would cast it off as a cringey show not worth their time, but I can accurately say that isn't the case. And if that doesn't convince you, one of the new characters is an adorable dog named Tucker.

# UPDATED: JSU faces criticism for hosting 3,500-person concert amid pandemic

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-faces-criticism-for-hosting-3500-person-concert-amid-pandemic/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-faces-criticism-for-hosting-3500-person-concert-amid-pandemic/)

December 3, 2020



**Miranda Prescott**, *News Editor*

Jacksonville State University has received criticism on social media from students about the recent Riley Green concert held on Nov. 20 to a stadium of 3,500 fans.

The concert was held as a benefit fundraiser for JSU athletics. Although masks were required when not eating, photos from the concert show several unmasked fans packed into the southside of the JSU stadium. Students have taken to social media to criticize the university for putting the concert on.

The university made an Instagram post on Tuesday, Nov. 24 reminding students about the rising number of cases in the state.

“As COVID-19 cases rise across the country, we want to remind you to keep practicing the safe six!” #CockyCares.” said the post.

According to Sydney Jones-Wright, JSU’s assistant director of social media and communications, comments containing “profound and offensive language” were removed from the Instagram post, per the university’s social media policy.



“Didn’t seem to care about the ‘safe six’ or even enforcing the mask mandate at the concert y’all held,” one Instagram comment read on the post.

Jeff Ryan, JSU’s chief of program operations and COVID-19 task force head, assured the public that this was not a “super-spreader event.”

“The Riley Green concert was planned in such a way to make it safe for 3,500 people to enjoy his music safely in an open-air setting,” said Ryan.



*Fans packed into the southside of the Burgess-Snow Field — many unmasked and not social distancing — for a Riley Green concert on Friday, Nov. 20. (Coley Birchfield/The Chanticleer)*

Madison North, a JSU graphic design major, took to social media to express dissatisfaction with the university’s decision to hold a concert, saying that JSU wouldn’t allow her to host a public reception for her graphic design work.

“I’m really mad at the fact that I was not allowed to have a public reception to show off my work as a graphic designer, but JSU can host a concert in the stadium where not a single person was wearing a mask or social distancing,” said North. “Don’t preach about our health and safety at college and then proceed to host a concert with no safety precautions right before everyone goes home to their families for thanksgiving break.”

Green's performance was held just before the university's Thanksgiving Break, a holiday that health officials say may result in a surge of COVID-19 cases as students return home to their families.

Ryan explained that the reserved seating — separate from the seating in the bleachers — were organized in a way to be “separated safely” from other attendees. He also said that there was sufficient space in the bleachers for attendees to spread out and maintain social distance, though many chose not to do so.


Ryan said that while patrons were required to wear masks upon entry of the venue, not everyone remained compliant with this order.

“Remember that the event was held out in the open air,” said Ryan. “This is an important factor in the safety equation.”

***CORRECTION:*** Our story earlier claimed that the Instagram post by the university was deleted and reposted. This is false. Profane and offensive comments were removed, per the university's social media policy, according to Sydney Jones-Wright, the university's assistant director of social media and communications. The story has been updated.



# OPINION: Human rights abuses in China must be met with 'naming and shaming' on world stage

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/opinion-human-rights-abuses-in-china-must-be-met-with-naming-and-shaming-on-world-stage/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/opinion-human-rights-abuses-in-china-must-be-met-with-naming-and-shaming-on-world-stage/)

December 3, 2020



**Natalie Walls**, *Special to the Chanticleer*

Over a million people primarily in the Muslim Uighur community have disappeared in Central Asia, leaving friends and family members without closure.

Where did they go?

The jury is still out on this question, but an answer is just semantics versus the larger issue of what is actually transpiring. Some refer to the location of the victims as “re-education centers,” while others (like in the United States) liken it to a concentration camp.

Arguments regarding a proper label is frivolous, however, and must be shifted to what is an indisputable fact: the human rights abuses that are occurring in China’s autonomous region of Xinjiang must be dealt with via naming and shaming by the United Nations Human Rights Council.

According to *The Australian Strategic Policy Institute*, there are about 380 facilities present in Xinjiang, but the exact numbers are shrouded in mystery like many facets of China.

The goal, proclaimed by China, is to address political extremism and poverty via so-called voluntary “vocational training,” but further investigation gives light to a far more sinister intent.

According to a report by Nathan Ruser, a researcher at the Australian Strategic Policy Institute, in September, Muslim Uighurs have been transported against their will (though they have committed no crime and have been given no trial) from the vocational facilities to, “...Xinjiang’s vast “re-education” network [and] are now being formally charged and locked up in higher security facilities, including newly built or expanded prisons, or sent to walled factory compounds for coerced labour assignments.”

Thus, this latest report gives credence to the fact something truly nefarious is taking place.

It is a historically established fact that China has had a negatively inconsistent record (at best) regarding human rights violations.

In 2019, China had “a systematic crackdown on dissent,” according to Amnesty International, and that “the justice system remained plagued by unfair trials and torture and other ill-treatment in detention.” With this in mind, it comes as no surprise to hear of these “re-education centers.”

Published by the British Broadcasting Company in November of 2019, there was information leaked to the International Consortium of Investigative Journalists (ICIJ) that included a memo that was supposed to go to the camps in 2017 from Zhu Hailun, who was, at the time, the deputy-secretary of Xinjiang’s Communist Party and the region’s top security official.

Within the memo (which the Chinese government has alleged is fake), there are harsh regulations that mandate “strict discipline, punishments and no escapes.”

Moreover, there is total control of the prisoners’ lives. From where they sleep to when they eat or use the bathroom, there is constant surveillance.

Indoctrination is the main objective of the camps. Prisoners, according to the leaked memo, are only allowed to leave if they outwardly show an extreme change in behavior and feelings, giving remorse for their illegal beliefs. Such a practice essentially aims to strip the Muslim Uighur community from their very identity through intense brainwashing.

So, what must be done? According to Ana Swanson and Edward Wong from *The New York Times*, thus far, the United States Treasury Department’s Office of Foreign Assets Control has imposed sanctions that specifically name the Xinjiang Production and Construction Corps, which are main actors in the economic and paramilitary development in Xinjiang.

The sanctions’ goals are to prohibit economic transactions between the two organizations and American companies as well as to prevent access of American property/financial systems.

The sanctions may sound effective theoretically, but in practice, Swanson and Wong write that, “....[the sanctions] most likely will have little or no practical impact...” on those directly involved in the organizations.

From an international perspective, Louis Charbonneau from Human Rights Watch writes that in 2019, “British Ambassador Karen Pierce used a public statement at the UN’s New York headquarters, backed by some two dozen countries, to condemn China’s treatment of Turkic Muslims, urge the closure of detention centers, and appeal for Bachelet’s unrestricted access.”

However, this was met with some of China’s supporting countries to respond by praising China for its protection of human rights, showing, unfortunately, that the pursuit for human rights protection is not without political undertones and the pressure of states to “take sides.”

Though this is a step in the right direction, this is hardly enough. The prisoners undergoing traumatic psychological, emotional and physical turmoil deserve more.

Instead, the most severe action must be taken by the United Nations Human Rights Council — to pass a resolution that publicly condemns China for their egregious human rights abuses towards the Muslim Uighur community in the concentration camps.

Once again, the cruel mistress of politics is rearing her ugly, self-interested head, exemplified by the fact that the U.N. Human Rights Council is afraid to be too harsh on such a powerful U.N. member like China.

However, even though China is extremely influential in the U.N., the political hypocrisy must cease because almost a million lives are at stake. If anything, because China is hierarchically powerful, it is all the more important for it be called out for its bad behavior in order to send the message that cultural genocide (and other human rights violations) will not be tolerated by the international community no matter who is doing wrong.

Naming and shaming can be an effective tool depending on the nature of the regime.

According to Emilie M. Hafner-Burton in her journal article entitled “Sticks and Stones: Naming and Shaming the Human Rights Enforcement Problem,” there have been mixed results when it comes to naming and shaming.

Fortunately, China has been in the figurative hot seat recently and has been known historically to dislike criticism (like most authoritarian governments).

Thus, naming and shaming via a public resolution could be effective. To do anything less than a resolution to put the utmost pressure on the Chinese government will harm both the legitimacy of the U.N. Human Rights Council (as it will be seen as neglecting its very duty due to a lack of political courageousness) and the Muslim Uighur community as they are kidnapped and robbed of what they hold dear.

Their lives should not be treated as inconsequential pawns in the vicious political game. Rather, the U.N. Human Rights Council must fulfill its highest purpose and showcase a great deal of political courage in order to save them.

*Natalie Walls is a Jacksonville State junior majoring in political science with a minor in sociology.*

# JSU falls in season opener, 81-57, to Alabama

[jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-falls-in-season-opener-81-57-to-alabama/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-falls-in-season-opener-81-57-to-alabama/)

December 3, 2020



**Coley Birchfield**, *Correspondent*

The Jacksonville State University's men's basketball team lost their first game of the 2020-21 season on Wednesday, Nov. 25. The Alabama Crimson Tide took advantage of poor Gamecock shooting and picked up their win by a score of 81-57.

The Thanksgiving Eve game, featured on the SEC Network, showcased a JSU team filled with newcomers. Fifth-year head coach Ray Harper welcomed seven transfers and four freshmen to an already-young team.

"We knew how difficult this game was going to be," said Harper. "It was our first time out with 11 new guys, but I saw some things I think we can build on and we competed. We had a lot of guys play, and we wanted to give everyone a look to see what we can kind of expect moving forward."

Demaree King, a transfer from Northern Oklahoma College, led the Gamecocks in scoring with 15 points. However, no other Gamecock had more than 10 points.

Many of the Gamecocks' struggles stemmed from the quiet shooting night. Collectively, they only accumulated a 27.5% field goal percentage, while also only shooting 58% from the free-throw line. The Alabama Crimson Tide only held a slight shooting advantage with a 39% field

goal percentage.

Alabama, a team picked to finish fifth in the Southeastern Conference by its conference media, showcased an exciting backcourt. The duo of Jaden Shackelford and Jahvon Quinerly combined for 36 points and 12 rebounds. Quinerly, a transfer from Villanova University, carries high expectations in his first eligible season with the Crimson Tide.

The limitation of crowds and unfamiliar COVID-19 precautions likely played a role in the bad shooting performances. A Coleman Coliseum operating at 13% capacity was both quiet and empty; a factor that is foreign to both teams. Both teams benches were also spread along the baselines to allow social distancing.

One positive takeaway from Wednesday's performance was the scoring seen from the JSU bench players. They combined to score 39 of JSU's 57 points.

The Gamecocks found themselves trailing to the Crimson Tide early in the first half after having a four minute scoring drought. Until this point, JSU held a 3-point lead and controlled the game's pace. That stretch allowed the Crimson Tide to find their offensive mentality and they did not look back.


If Ray Harper's team is able to shake the rust off, the Gamecocks could once again push for a second appearance in the NCAA Tournament in his tenure. The 3-point shooting of Martin Roub and the inside presence of North Carolina transfer, Brandon Huffman, is something that is expected to define the 2020-21 team.

JSU, now 3-1, won all three weekend games in the South Alabama Tournament against Florida Atlantic, South Alabama and NCAA Div. II University of Mobile from Friday, Nov. 27 to Sunday, Nov. 29.

Their first home game will be against Tennessee Tech, a conference opponent, on Wednesday, Dec. 16, which can be viewed on C-USA TV and listened on WLJS 91.9 FM, JSU's student-ran radio station.



# Poetry Review: ‘Hawaiian Shirt in the Electric Chair’ gets republished

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/poetry-review-hawaiian-shirt-in-the-electric-chair-gets-republished/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/poetry-review-hawaiian-shirt-in-the-electric-chair-gets-republished/)

December 3, 2020



**Breanna Hill**, *Features Editor*

I haven't had vast experience with poetry. The only time I've really delved into it was back in high school when my English teachers would make me dissect a piece of poetry till it was stripped bare.

Let's face it. We've all had at least one of those types of English teachers in our educational careers before.

Beyond the painful dissection of scholarly pieces in high school, I haven't read much poetry. Reading the raw, and relevant masterpieces enveloped within "Hawaiian Shirt In The Electric Chair" has completely changed my view and expanded how I look at this form of writing.

"Hawaiian Shirt In The Electric Chair" was written by Scott Laudati, who was born in Staten Island, raised in New Jersey. The Brooklyn resident has written numerous books including "Bone House," "Camp Winapooka," "Play The Devil" and others.

"This book was published in a much rawer and basically unread version a few years ago," said Laudati.

After the first publication of this book, Laudati went on to create more written works to be published. Cephalo Press then approached Laudati about a publication and he decided republishing this book again was something he wanted to do.

“When Cephalo Press approached me to publish something I figured why not give my first book another shot,” said Laudati. “I’ve had a few books published since, but this one was always my favorite since I wrote it so young I thought it captured something very honest and naive I lost as I got older.”

A music video for one of the poems within the book was also produced to introduce the public to Laudati’s work. The music video centers around the first poem in the book “*Can we live like this?*” and can be watched on Youtube. I thought this approach was different and unique. I never thought to use a music video as a promotional tool for a poetry publication.

“Hawaiian Shirt In The Electric Chair” includes forty poems and a little get-to-know-me about Scott. I found myself captivated by the words he used so elegantly. Each of the works within the book represented so much raw emotion and it’s so easy to see the characters within the poems as imperfect which can connect with how real life is.

His word choice is something readers don’t get to experience with just any poetry book, or any genre of book. The imagery used to tell a story in these works is something else I enjoyed thoroughly when reading through it. I found myself lost in each poem, immediately moving onto the next piece so I could devour it as well.

I never felt the haunting doubt of whether or not I understood what the author was talking about. The poems are complex yet not difficult to interpret or understand, which is so refreshing with this writing genre. There was no pressure for me, no need for me to reread to understand; I only reread out of amazement.

I will recommend this book to anyone and everyone. It’s for poetry fanatics but it’s also for everyone else too. There are so many aspects, characters, and profound thoughts laced within this book that everyone can find something that’ll make them happy they read it.

# JSU waives ACT, SAT test requirements until 2021

[jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-waives-act-sat-test-requirements-until-2021/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/12/03/jsu-waives-act-sat-test-requirements-until-2021/)

December 3, 2020



**Ashleigh Crouch**, *Correspondent*

Jacksonville State University announced in a press release on Nov. 17 that they will be waiving ACT and SAT test score requirements for incoming freshmen through fall 2021 due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Instead of awarding scholarships based on ACT and SAT scores, incoming freshmen without standardized test scores will be awarded merit based scholarships on their high school GPA alone.

According to JSU research, a student's high school is the "strongest predictor of academic success."

"JSU aims to be as friendly as possible, while also ensuring students' success in college is supported," said Lauren Findley, JSU's director of undergraduate admissions. "The COVID-19 pandemic has created uncertainty for testing, and we felt that, based on JSU historical data and trends in higher education, it was in the best interest of our potential students to adopt a test optional policy."

The university is advising students that do have ACT and SAT scores to submit them, as those who have standardized test scores may receive higher scholarships. Those without scores or with low scores will not be penalized, according to the university, but having a test score on file can be helpful when seeking admissions to specific programs, like education and nursing.

Despite changing its testing policy, JSU officials anticipate academic student profiles will remain similar to previous years when testing has been required.

In fall 2019 when testing was required the average GPA for incoming freshman was 3.51 whereas in fall 2020, when testing was optional, the average GPA for incoming freshman was actually higher at 3.54, according to JSU.

Accepted students may resubmit their test scores and GPA through May 1, 2021. Students may also resubmit their test scores and GPA for competitive scholarships, but the application deadlines vary.

The JaxApp, which fills out over 250 scholarships in one application, is due Feb. 1, 2021. The deadline for JSU Honors applications is Jan. 8, 2021 and JSU Leadership applications are due Feb. 1, 2021.

# Riley Green performs for 3,500 fans at JSU athletics benefit concert

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/21/riley-green-performs-for-3500-fans-at-jsu-athletics-benefit-concert/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/21/riley-green-performs-for-3500-fans-at-jsu-athletics-benefit-concert/)

November 21, 2020



**Breanna Hill**, *Features Editor*

Jacksonville's own country musician Riley Green returned to Burgess-Snow Stadium for another benefit concert on Friday.

The concert proceeds — which includes earnings from tickets, concessions and merchandise — will be donated to the JSU athletics program.

This concert included some of Green's closest friends in the music industry: Drake White, Ray Fulcher, Adam Hood and Dave Kennedy. Gates opened at 5:30 p.m. and the entertainment soon followed.

JSU set the occupancy for the event to 3,500 people, required masks to be worn at all times unless eating and for social distancing to take place. However, throughout the course of the concert, several of these measures were not followed by attendees, with many ignoring social distancing and mask-wearing protocols in the stands.





*Fans packed into the south side of the Burgess-Snow Field — many unmasked and not social distancing — for the Riley Green benefit concert on Friday. (Coley Birchfield/The Chanticleer)*

On the field, tables were set up six feet apart and only one side of the stadium was available for seating.

The opening acts were allotted more time than expected and only contributed to the frenzy going on around the fans, eager to see Green perform. Green took the stage at 9:15 p.m. and was full of energy.

He played some of his biggest hits including “Georgia Time,” “Different ‘Round Here,” “There Was This Girl,” “If It Wasn’t For Trucks” and “I Wish Grandpas Never Died,” while sprinkling in cover songs like “In Color” done originally by Jamey Johnson.

The presenting sponsors were given autographed guitars by Green due to their contributions to the university.

“It’s going to help the athletics department tremendously with it not having a season for football and then basketball got cut short, and baseball,” said Ed Lett, JSU’s director of athletic development and marketing. “It fills in the blanks.”

The athletics department expressed gratitude for the numerous contributions Green has made over the years.



Last year, the benefit concert raised \$80,000 for the Athletics Department. The university used the contributions to create the Riley Green Performance Center in Stephenson Hall that just had its ribbon-cutting ceremony on Thursday.

“I mean it is definitely a help, and Riley is generous enough to do this,” said Lett. “We can’t thank him enough.”

Green gathers much of his inspiration for music from his time spent growing up in Jacksonville, Ala. He mentions Alabama and his homegrown roots in numerous of his hits including “Georgia Time” and his latest single “If It Wasn’t For Trucks.”

“I played at every bar in town, restaurants and playing football here is one of those things where I probably got a lot of accountability which, as an 18-year-old kid, you probably don’t have,” said Green in a media interview on Friday. “There’s a lot of things about Jacksonville State, but ya know, just this town in general has always been home to me.”

When Green attended Jacksonville State and played for the football team, he had a few ideas of the direction his life would take.

“I realized I wasn’t going to play for the Dallas Cowboys,” said Green. “I told my mom I either wanted to do that or work for UPS, and I mean that one’s still on table. I just always enjoyed music and I played guitar a little bit. I started writing songs, and I think that’s what kind of opened the door for me.”

Green has been making his mark on the country music charts and recently won the Academy of Country Music Award for New Male Artist.

“It was crazy,” said Green. “I still don’t believe it. Keith Urban called me on Skype or Zoom or something and told me about it. The coolest thing about it was getting to perform on an award show. It’s something you always want and it’s a big deal.”

Green has a number of inspirational figures in the music industry he looks up to.

“One big one is a guy that sang on a song with me that also went to Jacksonville State, Randy Owens,” he said. “He’s kind of taken me under his wing, and pulls for me probably because I’m a Jacksonville State guy. Anybody from Alabama that’s doing country music has an influence on me.”

**Photos:** JSU Riley Green Benefit Concert (Courtesy of Coley Birchfield/The Chanticleer)

*Edited: 11/22/2020, 7:30 a.m.*

# JSU offering new set of unique courses in 2021

 [jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/20/jsu-offering-new-set-of-unique-courses-in-2021/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/20/jsu-offering-new-set-of-unique-courses-in-2021/)

November 20, 2020



**Coley Birchfield**, *Correspondent*

Jacksonville State University is introducing its students to a new set of unique courses available during the upcoming spring 2021 semester.

The various courses cover many topics including music, culture and even the Marvel universe.

Students seeking improvement in their writing skills can choose EH 330 Writing for the Web or EH 354 Creative Writing Special Topics: Worldbuilding.

Writing for the Web is suitable for everyone in a society surrounded with social media, websites, and blogs. It introduces students to the research and rhetoric ideal for web content.

Worldbuilding explores the creation of realistic and fantasy worlds. Students are inspired to create their own world after examining popular video games as well as Dungeons and Dragons.

For students seeking knowledge on race and its impact on the United States' culture in 2020, two courses will do just that. EM 195 Hip Hop & Race examines the impact that hip-hop music and poetry has had on our society and the anti-racism movement.

Also, HY 195 Why Black Lives Matter demonstrates how various eras throughout American history resulted in the formation of the Black Lives Matter movement in 2013.

Another course, EM 307 Pandemics and Pestilence, is a free course led by Jeff Ryan, JSU's COVID-19 task force leader and chief of program operations. It was also available during the summer and spring semesters in an effort to inform students on the importance of disease awareness and its impact on the human population.

In order to request these courses, you must search the course number within the Schedule Planner on myJSU. The last day to register for a course for the spring 2021 semester is Jan. 20, 2021.

# Report: ASUN ‘likely to add’ JSU as part of conference expansion

[jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/20/report-asun-likely-to-add-jsu-as-part-of-conference-expansion/](https://jsuchanticleer.com/2020/11/20/report-asun-likely-to-add-jsu-as-part-of-conference-expansion/)

November 20, 2020



**Thomas Ashworth**, *Correspondent*

The Atlantic Sun Conference released a statement on Monday detailing a “major expansion plan” for the conference, with the potential of adding Jacksonville State and others, according to media reports.

“On November 6, the ASUN Presidents’ Council confirmed its commitment to multi-school expansion, and approved specific action steps to put the ASUN at the forefront of mid-major conference realignment in the southeast,” the ASUN press release reads.

Kendall Rogers, the co-managing editor of D1Baseball, tweeted Monday that the conference voted to enter into a 60-day negotiating period with hopes of adding Eastern Kentucky, Central Arkansas and Jacksonville State. An hour later, Jeff Goodman of Stadium later confirmed Rogers’ tweet, saying that the conference is “likely” to add those three teams.

“Despite changing dynamics in conference realignment based on institutional moves over the past six months and the new reality of financial stress from the pandemic, the ASUN continues to lead the discussion on realignment in its footprint,” the press release read.

From 1995 to 2003, JSU was a part of the Atlantic Sun Conference before it joined the Ohio Valley Conference and has won 78 OVC championships since joining. This includes five straight OVC championships from the Gamecocks football team from 2014 to 2019.

ASUN league members who play football are considered provisional members of the Big South Conference for football, but the conference itself doesn't have that sport.

Attempts to reach JSU Athletic Director Greg Seitz for comment on Friday were unsuccessful.